

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3179

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMCONSUL BOMBA

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 0155

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, IN, US

SUBJ: THE PRIME MINISTER CONTINUES HER CRITICISM OF
EXTERNAL FORCES; THE PRESIDENT CALLS FOR MUTUAL
UNDERSTANDING*

1. ACCORDING TO A UNI REPORT PROMINENTLY CARRIED IN
THE WEEKEND PRESS, PRIME MINISTER GANDHI TOLD A PUBLIC
MEETING AT VISAKHAPATNAM JANUARY 3 THAT THE THREAT TO
INDIA'S FREEDOM CAME NOT ONLY FROM THE NORTHERN BORDERS
BUT ALSO FROM THE DEEP SEAS. SHE WAS QUOTED AS
SAYING "TIL NOW THE EXTERNAL THREAT HAS BEEN FROM OUR
NORTHERN BORDERS BUT WE CANNOT BE COMPLACENT WITH OUR
LONG SHORELINE". THE PRIME MINISTER SAID SHE TOURED
THE NAVAL DOCKYARD IN VISAKHAPATNAM FOR THIS VERY REASON.
THE PRIME MINISTER FURTHER ALLEGED, ACCORDING TO THE
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UNI REPORT, THAT SOME ELEMENTS ABROAD (WHO DID NOT LIKE

US TO BE STRONG AND SELF-RELIANT) HAD INCREASED THEIR CRITICISM AND PROPAGANDA FROM THE TIME OF INDIA'S FREEDOM STRUGGLE SO THAT WHEN WE CONDUCTED THE PEACEFUL ATOMIC TEST AND SENT UP OUR OWN SATELLITE ARYABHATA THE CRITICISM WAS "AS BIG AS THE BLAST ITSELF".

2. THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO SAID SHE FOUND IT STRANGE THAT COUNTRIES TO WHOM DEMOCRACY AND ITS VALUES WERE QUITE FOREIGN AND WHO HAD BROUGHT DOWN DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED GOVERNMENTS THROUGH MILITARY, MORAL AND EVERY SORT OF CONCEIVABLE INVOLVEMENT "SHOULD NOW WEEP AT OUR DEMOCRACY". THE INDIAN PEOPLE SHOULD NOT BE ANNOYED BY SUCH CRITICISM, FOR "ONE CAN ONLY FEEL SORRY FOR THESE HYPOCRITIC AND DOUBLE-FACED ELEMENTS." MRS GANDHI DEVOTED THE BULK OF HER SPEECH TO THE IMPORTANCE OF SCIENCE TO DEVELOPING THE INDIAN COUNTRYSIDE AND OVERCOMING POVERTY. SHE CRITICIZED SCIENTISTS FOR ATTACHING TOO MUCH IMPORTANCE TO FOREIGN ACCEPTANCE AND WARNED THAT INDIAN SCIENCE MUST BE PREPARED FOR "MORE ONSLAUGHT" FROM ABROAD, FOR "SCIENTISTS OF ADVANCED COUNTRIES FIND IT HARD TO OVERCOME ATTITUDES ENGENDERED BY COLONIALISM AND THE LONG DISTORTION OF HISTORY" (PTI SUMMARY).

3. OUR CONSULATE IN MADRAS REPORTS THAT SANJAY GANDHI MADE HIS POLITICAL DEBUT IN SOUTH INDIA AT VISAKHAPATNAM BY ADDRESSING A LARGE ANDHRA PRADESH YOUTH CONGRESS RALLY THE SAME DAY. APPARENTLY INFLUENCED BY HIS MOTHER'S RECENT CHARGES, SANJAY ALLUDED TO FOREIGN ENCOURAGEMENT OF POLITICAL AGITATIONS AND ASKED SPECIFICALLY WHY THE US SHOULD DECRY THE EMERGENCY IN INDIA. GOI MINISTER FOR PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS K. RAGHURAMAIAH, WHO PRESIDED OVER THE MEETING, DESCRIBED SANJAY GANDHI AS THE "RISING SUN IN INDIAN POLITICS" AND ASKED THE YOUTH TO RALLY ROUND HIM.

4. THE PRIME MINISTER KEPT UP HER OWN RHETORICAL OFFENSIVE WITH TWO FURTHER SPEECHES IN DELHI JANUARY 4. AT A PUBLIC RALLY COMMEMORATING THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF RAILWAY MINISTER MISHRA'S ASSASSINATION, SHE WARNED OF THE CONTINUING DANGER POSED BY FASCIST AND ANTI-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DEMOCRATIC ELEMENTS AND CALLED UPON THE INDIAN PEOPLE TO ORGANIZE COUNTRYWIDE RESISTANCE AGAINST THEM. THOSE ELEMENTS ATTEMPTING TO WEAN YOUTH AWAY FROM SCHOOL OR PREACHING THAT INDIA WAS NOT PROGRESSING HAD TO BE WEEDED OUT AND DESTROYED. ALTHOUGH NOT ALL OPPOSITION PARTIES WANTED TO WEAKEN THE DEMOCRATIC STRUCTURE OF THE COUNTRY, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT SOME HADNOT PAID DUE ATTENTION TO THE ROLE OF FOREIGN AGENCIES AND

POWERS IN CREATING INSTABILITY. IN ANOTHR ADDRESS
THE SAME DAY TO THE MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS PARLIA-
MENTARY PARTY, MRS GANDHI REPEATED THAT THE COUNTRY
SHOULD BE ALERT TO EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL THREATS.
THERE WERE CONSTANT EFFORTS BY CERTAIN INTERESTS TO
BUILD UP AN ATMOSPHERE OF DANGER AND THREATS. IT WAS
REGRETTABLE, SHE SAID, THAT EVEN SO MANY YEARS AFTER
INDEPENDENCE PEOPLE RELIED MORE ON WHAT WAS PUBLISHED
IN FOREIGN NEWSPAPERS. THEY SHOULD REALIZE THAT THE
POINT OF VIEW OF THESE PAPERS AND THEIR INTERESTS WERE
QUITE DIFFERENET FROM 'OURS'.

5. DEPUTY EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER DAS, SPEAKING
JANUARY 2 TO AN INDIAN FEDERATION OF UNITED NATIONS
ASSOCIATION GATHERING, ALSO WARNED AGAINST EXTERNAL
FORCES WHICH WERE ATTEMPTING TO CREATE CONDITIONS OF
DESTABILIZATION IN INDIA AND OTHER PARTS OF THE
WORLD. DAS SAID THAT WHAT HAD HAPPENED IN CHILE AND
BANGLADESH WAS ALSO PLANNED TO TAKE PLACE IN INDIA. THE
DEVELOPMENTS IN BANGLADEESH HAD THE BACKING OF OURSIDE
FORCES. THESE FORCES WERE TRYING TO DISPLACE GOVERN-
MENTS UNFRIENDLY TO THEM, AND THIS WAS A DANGEROUS
TREND.

6. BY CONTRAST, INDIAN PRESIDENT FAKRUDDIN ALI AHMED
TOLD THE OPENING SESSION OF PARLIAMENT JANUARY 5 THAT
"WE DESIRE A MATURE AND CONSTRUCTIVE RELATIONSHIP
WITH THE USA. A SERIOUS EFFORT SOULD BE MADE TO
UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER WITH A VIEW TO STRENGTHENING
PEACE, STABILITY, AND COOPERATION." COMMENT: WE WILL
FOLLOW WITH INTEREST THE COMMENTS WHICH MAY BE MADE BY
MPS DURING THIS SESSION TO SEE WHETHER THE PRESIDENT'S
GUIDANCE OR THAT OF THE PM IS FOLLOWED.
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